

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /080 W
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R 161341Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 956

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 204

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: RETURN OF TIT-FOR-TAT KILLINGS

1. THERE MORE THAN 30 VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING SHOOTINGS OR BOMBINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND OVER WEEKEND JUNE 14-15. IN BELFAST GROUP OF MEN IN STOLEN CAR SPRAYED BOTH SIDES OF STREET IN CATHOLIC NEW LODGE ROAD KILLING WOMAN AND WOUNDING SEVERAL OTHER PEDESTRIANS. IN WHAT BELIEVED RETALIATION PROTESTANT SHOT FROM CAR AND KILLED NEARBY SEVERAL HOURS LATER. ARMY APPREHENDED FOUR MEN AND RECOVERED SUB-MACHINE GUN AND OTHER FIREARMS IN FIRST INCIDENT.

2. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY HAS PROVIDED RESTRICTED COMPARISON OF SECURITY SITUATIONS FOR PERIODS 1 JUNE TO MAY 31 FOR 1974 AND 1975. PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE COVERED WHOLE OF THIS PERIOD IN 1975 EXCEPT FOR 25 DAYS FROM JANUARY 7 TO FEBRUARY 10.

	1974	1975	PER CENT
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A) SHOOTINGS TOTAL	1500	683	55 REDUCTION
SHOOTINGS NOT INVOLVING			

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SECURITY FORCES	580	514	11 REDUCTION
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PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS

(KNEE CAP)	57	73
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B) BOMBINGS 365 123 66 REDUCTION
(54 OF THESE 1975 EXPLOSIONS WERE RECORDED IN THE 25 DAY PERIOD
OUTSIDE CEASEFIRE)

C) DEATHS SECURITY FORCES	23	6
CIVILIANS	76	80

D) ASSASSINATIONS CIVILIAN 36 55
(APRIL 21 ASSASSINATIONS HIGHEST MONTHLY TOTAL SINCE JULY 1972
WITH 36 AND NOVEMBER 1974 WITH 26)
(ONLY 9 OF THESE DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO FACTIONAL FEUDS)
RATIO OF ASSASSINATION VICTIMS ROUGHLY 2 ROMAN CATHOLICS TO
ONE PROTESTANT)

E) ATTACKS ON RUC STATIONS AND PERSONNEL

STATIONS	68	24
PERSONNEL	695	500
SHOOTINGS	177	70
BOMBINGS	68	5

F) ARMED ROBBERIES REPORTED	583	528
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G) ARMS THEFTS REPORTED 45 82
(NOTE THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE WEAPONS TAKEN IN RAID ON ULSTER
DEFENSE REGIMENT INSTALLATION NIGHT OF JUNE 15)

H) BORDER INCIDENTS	127	64
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I) ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

FINDS	645	325
AMMUNITION	79,566 ROUNDS	29,105 ROUNDS
EXPLOSIVES	14,524 LBS.	4,311 LBS.

J) PERSONS CHARGED WITH SERIOUS OFFENSES

FIREARMS	256	191
EXPLOSIVES	70	32
MURDER	35	49

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ATTEMPTED MURDER	24	52
ARMED ROBBERY	109	127
OTHER OFFENSES, E.G. ARSON, IRA MEMBERSHIP, HI-JACKING	82	45
TOTAL	576	496

K) ARRESTS BY RELIGION

PROTESTANT	262	249
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CATHOLIC

314

247

3. EXAMINATION OF THESE FIGURES PARTICULARLY IN THE CATEGORIES OF EXPLOSIONS, ATTACKS ON SECURITY PERSONNEL, BORDER INCIDENTS AND FINDS STRIKINGLY REVEALS EFFICACY OF PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE. IT ALSO INDICATES LOWER LEVEL SECURITY ACTIVITY IN REPUBLICAN AREAS. MOST OF THE KILLINGS AND BOMBINGS NOW APPEAR BE INTER-SECTARIAN WITH PRE-SELECTED TARGETS. IT IS KNOWN THAT THE SECURITY FORCES CREDIT REDUCTION ALMOST EQUALLY TO PROVISIONAL CEASEFIRE AND TO CONVICTION THAT MOST DANGEROUS VIOLENT CRIMINALS ARE NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION.
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